GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5470
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002
INDIAN REFUGEES
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Minorities has complained about the pitiable condition of the Indian Refugees coming to India from abroad;

(b) if so, the number of refugees who have reached here so far; and

(c) the arrangements made by the Government for their rehabilitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): No, Sir, this Ministry is not aware of such complaint.

(b): The total number of foreigners who have sought refuge in India is 1,98,163 (as on 31.12.2001). Of these, only Tibetans (83,376) and Srilankans (64,254) are referred to as refugees.

(c): Foreigners seeking refuge in India are not to be rehabilitated in India permanently but they are provided relief pending their repatriation to their homeland as per policy guidelines of the Government of India. In case of Tibetan Refugees, the Government of India has been giving assistance towards temporary settlement. Care has been taken to ensure their separate ethnic and cultural identity. Majority of them have been settled either through self-employment or with Government`s assistance under agricultural and handicraft Schemes in different States of India.

In case of Srilankan refugees, certain essential relief facilities such as shelter in camps, cash doles, clothing, subsidised ration are provided on humanitarian grounds pending their repatriation. An amount of Rs.25 crores has been provided in the budget of 2002-03 on relief measures.